

## CLAIMS

1/ A sheath (10) of flexible material for close protection of products placed on a work surface and sensitive to airborne contamination, the protection being  
5 provided by diffusing a stream of sterile air, in particular in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said work surface, said sheath (10) defining a sterile air feed duct (13) and presenting a geometrical singularity (20), the sheath being  
10 characterized in that a sterile air diffusion cone (30) is provided in said feed duct (13) immediately after said singularity (20) in the direction of sterile air flow in said duct (13), the diffusion cone being oriented in the sterile air flow direction and being centered on the  
15 longitudinal axis X of the sheath (10).

2/ A sheath (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) is truncated.

20 3/ A sheath (10) according to claim 1, characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) has an angle at the apex ( $\alpha$ ) lying in the range  $30^\circ$  to  $45^\circ$ , and preferably equal to about  $45^\circ$ .

25 4/ A sheath (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) is made of a perforated flexible material, preferably a textile material.

30 5/ A sheath (10) according to claim 4, characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) is made of a synthetic fabric such as a polyester or polypropylene fabric.

35 6/ A sheath (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) is made of a perforated rigid material.

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- 7/ A sheath (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 6,  
characterized in that said material constituting the  
diffusion cone (30) has porosity of about 0.5.
- 5 8/ A sheath (10) according to any one of claims 1 to 7,  
characterized in that said diffusion cone (30) is secured  
to the end of a sleeve (40) positioned inside said  
sterile air feed duct (13) on the longitudinal axis X of  
the sheath and presenting a section that is slightly  
10 smaller than that of the sheath (10).
- 9/ A sheath (10) according to claim 8, characterized in  
that the diffusion cone is made of a porous material and  
said sleeve (40) is made of a material that is less  
15 porous than the material of said diffusion cone (30).
- 10/ A sheath (10) according to claim 8 or claim 9,  
characterized in that said sleeve (40) is made of a  
perforated flexible material such as a textile material  
20 such that under the action of the sterile air passing  
through it takes up an oval shape and comes into contact  
with the inside face of a wall (11) of the sheath (10).
- 11/ A sheath (10) according to any one of claims 8 to 10,  
25 characterized in that it includes a central branch  
connection constituted by a sterile air feed duct (20)  
opening out into said sheath (10) in a direction Y that  
is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis  
of the sheath (10) such that at the outlet from said  
30 sterile air feed duct (20) the sterile air flows in two  
opposite directions generally along the longitudinal axis  
X of said sheath, the sheath being provided internally at  
the outlet from the branch connection with a diffusing  
sleeve (40) extending along the longitudinal axis X of  
35 the sheath (10) and having a diffusion cone (30) at each  
end (41, 42), the cones being oriented in the sterile air  
flow direction and centered on the longitudinal axis X of  
the sheath (10).

CORRECTED SHEET

This translation of an amended page covers the amendments made in the original.  
However, the page breaks match the translation, so that this page is also a  
replacement page that fits in with the remainder of the translation.

12/ A sheath of flexible material for close protection of products placed on a work surface and sensitive to airborne contamination, the protection being provided by a stream of sterile air, in particular in a direction that is substantially perpendicular to said work surface, said sheath defining a sterile air feed duct and presenting a geometrical singularity, the sheath being characterized in that a sterile air diffusion hemisphere is provided in said feed duct immediately after said singularity in the direction of sterile air flow in said duct, the hemisphere being oriented in the sterile air flow direction and being centered on the longitudinal axis X of the sheath.